

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 20822 221749Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 SS-15
INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 MCE-00 /069 W
-----127134 221754Z /43

P R 221742Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1560
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LONDON 20822

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, MMOL, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN ACQUISITION OF STRIKE AIRCRAFT

REF: A) STATE 295985; B) ISLAMABAD 12276; C) NEW
DELHI 18245

1. FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY DONALD MURRAY
PHONED EMBOFF DECEMBER 22 AND INFORMED HIM AS
FOLLOWS: VIEWS WHICH DEPT. PUT TO MURRAY ON
SUBJECT OF INDIAN ACQUISITION OF STRIKE AIRCRAFT DURING
HIS VISIT OF DECEMBER 2 TO WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN VERY
CAREFULLY STUDIED IN WHITEHALL. IT HAS NOW BEEN CON-
CLUDED THAT THE DECISION CONVEYED BY HMG TO THE GOI
IN AUGUST 1975, THAT HMG HAS NO POLITICAL OBJECTION
TO THE SALE OF JAGUARS TO INDIA, SHOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT BE REVERSED. HOWEVER, MURRAY SPECIFIED THAT HE
HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO SAY THAT THIS HMG POSITION
IN NO WAY REPRESENTS A WEAKENING OF HMG'S COMMITMENT
TO PLAY A FULL PART IN FOUR-POWER TALKS ON ARMS
SALES POLICIES.

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2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY
THE USG REQUESTS HMG TO PROVIDE US ADVANCE NOTIFICA-
TION WHEN AND IF IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A JAGUAR SALES
AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED. MURRAY TOOK CAREFUL
NOTE OF THIS REQUEST, AND COMMENTED THAT HMG IS NOT
YET AT THE STAGE OF DISCUSSING THE TERMS OF A
POSSIBLE CONTRACT WITH THE INDIANS.

3. COMMENT: AS WE INDICATED IN LONDON 17581, GIVEN THE CURRENT STATE OF THE BRITISH ECONOMY AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTS, THE PRIMARY POLICY INTEREST OF THE BRITISH IN INDIA IS COMMERCIAL SALES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE THE BRITISH TO REVERSE THIS DECISION. IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO SO, WE BELIEVE THE ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE BOTH IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON. FOR EXAMPLE, WE LIKE EMBASSY NEW DELHI FOUND THE ANALYSIS IN ISLAMABAD'S 12276 PERSUASIVE AND HAVE REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION TO CONVEY IT TO THE FCO (LONDON 20555). WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS IS COMING TO LONDON FOR THE JANUARY 20-22 VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF. PERHAPS DUBS COULD STAY OVER UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MONDAY JANUARY 23 TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE FURTHER WITH MURRAY.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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